

Don't Feed the Animals

(Lessons from the Withdrawal of Linda Chavez)

News Analysis by J.J. Johnson - Posted: 01.10.01

It is troublesome enough when we have to live with the fact that Democrats can't accept losing. It's much worse when Republicans start forgetting that they have won. Not just a presidency, but the end of so-called "politics of personal destruction." The fallout from the withdrawal of Linda Chavez from becoming Bush's pick for Labor Secretary needs to be a wake-up call to the GOP, or maybe a slap in the face.

"So long as the game in Washington is a game of search-and-destroy, I think we will have very few people who are willing to do what I did, which was to put myself through this in order to serve," Sanchez said. "What has happened over the last few days is quite typical of what happens in Washington, D.C." So who's running things there, anyway?

Marc Levin, NCRC First Vice Chairman of the well respected National Council for a Republican Congress quickly fired back saying, "After President Clinton called for the end of the politics of personal destruction, history will reflect that it is Democrats and their friends on the left who have now made Linda Chavez a victim of their partisan witchhunt."

The time has come to speak the truth. This is less the "politics of personal destruction," than it is the "politics with no backbone," something many conservatives feared from this new Bush Administration. This is not to question the integrity of Linda Chavez, but for the GOP hierarchy to make it look like it was actually her decision. We know better. The left wing extremists apply a little heat, throw up some dust, and the Republicans get soft, and back down. After all, we all want to look good, and don't need that baggage anyway, right?

With "whoever" making the let's-do-the-right-thing approach to Chavez, the conventional wisdom told someone it was a smart move to avoid "political damage." But in this political game of chess, they've missed the fact that they have just given a bunch of whining, defeated, left-wing extremists new life-blood. If this is all it takes, then who's next? Ashcroft? Whittman? Powell?

The only way Democrats can redeem themselves is by the failure of George W. Bush. Sure, we may have won the election, but since the enemy is entrenched in the state sponsored media, we are seeing and can continue to expect any stupid rumor, leak or ugly press release to make the wires faster than Elian Gonzales's jack-booted thug greeting photo, or Bush's drinking problems. I'd figure after the long fight to win the White House, lessons would have been learned. I guess not.

Let's put it straight to those Republicans now gleaming with this new found spirit of bi-partisanship, and hope for a new day in Washington. It ain't gonna happen. It's like the sign we see in the zoo that says, "DON'T FEED THE ANIMALS." With Linda Chavez backing off with barely a fight, that is exactly what the Bush team has done.

Right now, those of us who watch the news wires on the Net are getting bombarded with a new player starting an e-mail campaign to derail the next appointee. Their target: Whoever they can get their hands on. Frankly, we on this side of the fence have better things to do than "react" to every spam campaign we are faced with. This of course, is part of the strategy of the left - to yell, scream, lie, even walk out of Congress in protest - until

someone listens to them, figuring we won't have the stomach to fight back.

Well, we shouldn't have to.

To the Bush camp: Our side was put under a lot of pressure, but didn't walk away from you back in November. When the challenge came, we were there. We got off our couches and defended someone on principle. I don't think it's asking too much for you to do the same for your people in January and beyond. We weren't doing this just to make you folks look good.

You made the choice. You did the background checks. You had the interviews with your picks. You made the public announcements. You wanna be a leader? Then dammit - STAND BEHIND YOUR DECISIONS. This goes for ALL Republicans. You think throwing these people a bone will make them like you and be nice? Get real. Try learning from the enemy. As much as some of the behavior of the Democrats make me sick, I can't help but be impressed with how they stick together when under attack.

And it has worked for them for years. They managed to keep treasonous criminals in the White House - by sticking together.

But on this side of the fence, we watch in amazement how the press machine is now in high gear against anyone who is a true conservative that gets picked by George W. Bush. The GOP majority in Congress can't wait to distance themselves from anyone who gets attacked by the media, as if they'll be the better for it. We find that we must play their game, and work under their rules - as if we're in the minority. Do we need to remind ourselves that we won, and more importantly **how** we won?

When Ronald Reagan faced opposition over the Robert Bork appointment to the Supreme Court, he didn't back down. He lost. Later, George Bush (Sr.) faced down the demons opposed to Clarence Thomas. He won. Thomas was among the Supreme Court votes that helped sort out the recent Florida election mess in George W. Bush's favor. How clear of a lesson does one need?

Get some guts, George and the GOP. When you were overheard calling that New York Times reporter what he really was, you didn't apologize or back down. As a result: your poll numbers went up. You even won over a few democrats. They didn't care about your politics. They simply liked a man who spoke the truth, and didn't back down under pressure. That's the kind of President America needs.

As I write, Attorney General-to-be John Ashcroft, a man who was too decent to even challenge his campaign loss to a woman who doesn't even live in his state, is being attacked from all sides by screaming idiots - simply because he is a conservative and has no tolerance for state-sponsored bigotry. I see little to no help or public support coming his way from the Republican leadership. Will he be next on the chopping block? If this trend continues, many Americans will rightly question the amount of left-wing pressure it takes to make George W. blink.

Read our lips, George W: The Associated Press and CNN didn't get you elected president.

The Bush camp needs to get with the program, and stop trying to cater to the state-sponsored media. I submit that a good way to change things in Washington is for the conservatives to start delivering their messages first to news organizations that won't pigeon-hole everything they say. This news service and others stand waiting for that chance

to carry their message to the masses. With the coming of broadband and wireless internet, state-sponsored television and radio will become museum relics with the words written underneath: "This was media before we became free again."

But if the Republican leadership chooses the APs and CNNs of the world to carry their message rather than we who are in the media trenches, then perhaps we might conclude that the Republican would rather have us follow the New York Times of the world, and let them tell us who to vote for in the future.